"WOMEN'S STRUGGLE FOR FREEDOM: A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF THE SELECT NOVELS OF BETTI MEHMOODI, DEBORAH ELLIS & TEHMINA DURRANI"

Introduction :-

Women writers expressing themselves in large number in the world over. Women writers advocate the equal rights in all the domain of society. They are against the patriarchy.They write about violence, abuse, sexual, mentaland physical harassment of women. Muslim womenwriters are lesscompared to their counterparts .The reason for this are many.These Muslim women writersare afraid to raise their voice against their suppression.Nevertheless,they are articulating themselves.

The main concerns of their writing are some notable problems such as-child abuse, marital rape, forced veiling, honor killing etc. Their stories are the stories of victimization and their attempts to escape it. Women writers are fighting against religious dogma and gender inequality.

The works of women writers such as BettiMehmoodi, Deborah Ellis and TehminaDurraniexpose some common issues like displacement, child abuse, family conflict and cultural bondage. They depict the plight, suffering and struggle for liberation in patriarchal Muslim society.

Aims of the Study :

The aim of this research is to bring forth the different aspects of women`s writing such as their themes, concerns, art of characterization, narrativetechniques, feminine aspect of their narrative art and the art of storytelling. Their force,

anguish, urge for freedom, and quest for identity .Bring out their exploitation and dehumanization and optimism.

Scope and Limitation :-

The study of this proposed research will be limited to the works ofBetti Mehmoodi's 'Not Without My Daughter,' Deborah Elllis' 'The Bread Winners', 'Parvana's Journey' and'Mud City' and TehminaDurrani's'My Feudal Lord' and 'Blasphemy'.

Objectives of Study :-

- To explore and study the women`s voice in Literature of Islamic world.
- To examine women`s exploitation, dehumanization in Islamic world.
- To explore the ongoing combat in Islamic world between women and the oppressing forces,in other word,Islamic fanatic and rational humanist forces.
- To make the comparative study of the three selected women writers particularly taking into account their different geographical,socio-economical locals and art of storytelling.
- To study these writers on a larger canvas of Feminist and Humanist Literature.

Methodology :

The study will be done with analytical and critical analysis of selected novels of these writers .The study will also take into account different reviews withthehelp of various scholars, statements,critical studies, articles from the preferred journals, magazines and related web sites.

Religious, social aspects of women`s problems in the Islamic world portrayed in the selected novels is aimed to be probed withdepth. Psychological,

socio-psychological, and New feminist approaches would be considered seriously while probing their works.

Implication :

This study is hoped to bring out the forces of exploitation, dehumanization of women in all facets of society and its artistic reflection in the novels of these three women writers.

CHAPTER SCHEME:-

1) Introduction:-

The ‘women`s movement’ of the 1960s is to be considered as the starting point of feminism,but this traces back to some classic books like Mary Wollstonecraft`s ‘A vindication of the Rights of Women (1792). Olive Scheriner’ ‘Women and labour’ and Virginia Woolf`s ‘A Room of One`s Own’ (1929). These books have diagnosed the problems of women`s inequality in society and (in some cases) proposed some solutions. ‘The Second Sex’ ofSemone de Beauvoireisseminal book in this context.The feminist criticism in the 1970s exposes the mechanisms of patriarchy–thecultural mind set in men and women which perpetuatedsexual inequality. The feminist shifted their attention from the text of men to the text of women .Women become aware about their position, rights in the society.Women writers articulate themselves through writing and try to expose the mechanisms of patriarchy.They also expose their anguish, forces of victimization, suppression and oppression and exploitation in general.In particular, Muslim women writers raise their voice against their suppression. They react against fundamentalism. Writings of BettiMehmoodi, Deborah Ellis and TehminaDurrani glimpse over some crucial problemsas displacement, child abuse, family conflictand cultural restriction. They seek autonomy, new identity and exposethe pathetic condition of women at the hands ofconservative people.

2) Women`s suppression during Taliban Regime in the selected works of Deborah Ellis.

Present chapter will glimpse over the odds, sufferings,suppression of women during the regime of Taliban in Afghanistan in Deborah Ellis'triology called 'Paravana's Journey.' It addresses the issues like suppression of female child ,particularly in a religion dominated society. The female protagonist Parvana herself becomes the victim and seeks shelter.

3) Women's victimization in TehminaDurrani's selected novels.

Durrani's works like 'My Feudal Lord'and 'Blasphemy' highlight the forces of victimizationof women.Women are victims ofrape, femaleinfanticide, sexual assault, domesticviolence, early marriage,honor killing etc.Religion, society, family,marriage, politics becomes the tool of victimizationas revealed in her works.

4) Male Domination, unbearable sorrows and struggle for justice in Betti Mehmoodi, Tehmina Durrani and Deborah Ellis' selected fiction.

This chapter will deal with these three writers' selected works. They have different socio–economic and geographical backgrounds.Their writing expose pathetic condition of women, their struggle for identity, justice and forms of domination.

5) Conclusion

In this chapter attempt is made to give gist of study such as male domination, unbearable sorrows of women and their suppression during Taliban regime and victimization of women at the hands of religious extremism. Islam itself impartial about both sexes but hypocrite Muslim religious leaders are degrading women by

misinterpreting Islam. Men do no twant to change their feudal attitude though the world is changing rapidly.Religion has become the tool of women' svictimization.Conclusion is drawn from the discussion and analysis of the novels ofselectedwomen writers in the above stated chapters.The scheme of chaptarization is tentative.

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